Development of multi-barrel rocket system

*159. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an indigenously developed multi-barrel rocket system has successfully been tested:

(b) if so, the main features of this system; and

(c) what steps have been taken and are being taken for undertaking the manufacture of this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The multi-barrel rocket system 'PINAKA' is under advance stages of development. So far, 16 series of development. flight trials have been carried out. The system is now ready for user's evaluation trials which are expected to commence in second half of 1995.

(b) This is an area weapon system having quick reaction time, high accuracy, high rate of fire and good mobility characteristics. It is capable of firing a salvo of 12 rockets upto maximum range of about 40 km.

(c) The production agency has been identified and fully associated with the development work to ensure smooth transfer of technology during development phase itself.

Response of industrial sector to liberalisation

*160. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrial sector is yet to respond with full vigour to liberalisation measures:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to make the industrial sector more responsive to the economic reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) As per the quick index of industrial production the overall rate of industrial growth in April-November, 1994 is 8.7 percent. The industries are now responding well to the industrial and other economic reforms. The broad based industrial recovery is the result of cumulative success of industrial restructuring, other related sector reforms and the policy initiatives to make Indian industry internationally competitive.

Shifting of AMD's eastern regional headquarters

1480. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Regional Headquarters of Atomic Minerals Division (AMD) under Department of Atomic Energy in Calcctta is being shifted; if so, the reasons therefor:

(b) whether the headquarter was located in Calcutta since the last 37 years;

(c) whether it was earlier decided that AMD Eastern Regional Office in Calcutta would have its own building for office and laboratories and whether space for the same was offered by Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) as well as by CMDA, Government of West Bengal, if so, why the same was not accepted; and

(d) whether the interaction facility available in Calcutta with different Science and Research Organizations will not be affected by shifting the office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. In view of the fact that a good percentage of the Country's Uranium reserves occur in Jaduguda, Narwapahar and other parts of Singhbhum District in Bihar and the adjoining areas of Orissa and major investigations are concentrated in this area and also the fact that suitable land/office accommodation is not available in Calcutta at reasonable prices, the Eastern Region Office of the Atomic Minerals Division (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has been shifted from Calcutta to Khasmahal (near Jamshedpur) where laboratories, an office and Housing Complex of the AMD are nearing completion at a cost of about Rs. 7 crore. The land for the purpose was aquired in 1971 and the approvals for construction of the complex at Khasmahal were given in 1989 and 1990. It will serve to consolidate the various offices of the AMD spread over Ranchi & Koderma in Bihar and Calcutta. However, a Liaison Office of the AMD will continue to function at Calcutta with the necessary staff.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. During 1978 it was contemplated to construct a building at Calcutta for the office and Laboratories of AMD, Eastern Region. But since there was no suitable land available, the project could not make any headway.

Discussions were held with the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) at Calcutta for allotting a plot of land in their compound at Calcutta for building AMD Offices and Laboratories. But this did not materialise. The cost of the land offered by the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), Government of West Bengal, was too high. Secondly, AMD was already in possession of 20 acres of land at Khasmahal in the neighbourhood of which the sites for major investigations of the Eastern Region are located.

(d) Exploration of Uranium is a Research and Development activity of a specialised nature Interaction with different science and research organisations at Calcutta will continue through the Liaison Office to be maintained at Calcutta. The location of the offices at Khasmahal will augment interaction with officials of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) based at Jaduguda, Bihar, in the field of exploration.

Radiation Menace around UCIL

1481. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 70,000 people in an area of about 10 Kms. around the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) at Jaduguda in Singhbhum District have fallen prey to ailments due to radiation effects from the 'waste ponds';

(b) whether the water and soil around the waste ponds have highly been contaminated affecting the human beings and animals alike; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to disinfect the water and soil around UCIL to save the residents of the areas of the ill-effects of radiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The ground water and soil in the area around the waste